

IN DEFENCE OF JUSTICE
THE CASE OF
CAMILO VIVIEROS JR.

Info Packet

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On the week of August 1 2000, during the Republican convention, thousands of people from all over the country took to the streets of Philadelphia in protest around issues of justice and democracy. Over 400 protesters were arrested in what has been called the largest single violation of civil rights since the Vietnam War. Two years later, of the 400 plus arrested, 95% have either had their cases dismissed for lack of evidence or have been acquitted. Today, however, Camilo remains charged with first-degree felony assault on police commissioner John Timoney, a charge that carries the same potential sentence as homicide! The blatant abuse of power by the Philadelphia police and courts in an effort to stifle political dissent has resulted in several civil rights lawsuits against the City. Settlements are already being made in favor of the protesters. Camilo, however, has just received a trial date of October 9. He faces the prosecutor's trumped up charges in a final attempt to make an example of someone after all the city's misdeeds and wasted resources. This is not simply a case of injustice against one individual. Camilo's case threatens our right to use public protest and non-violent civil disobedience as a way to speak up against injustice.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

INFORM YOURSELF AND GET THE WORD OUT

¥ Visit friendsofcamilo.org ¥

¥ Read about the case. ¥

¥ Distributed info amongst friends ¥

WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT -- Letters are vitally important for convincing the authorities that the community cares about this case.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF CAMILO S WORK

Camilo has been involved in direct service, advocacy and community organizing. He: works to assist mostly elderly and disabled tenants who are endangered by rent increases to form tenant associations and stop evictions; volunteered as a caregiver in high school; volunteered on a suicide hotline; worked in group homes with developmentally disabled adults; worked in the local rape crisis center; co-founded the Progressive Student Alliance (to increase financial aid funding and preserve programs to support immigrant and first-generation American students); co-founded the national organization Empty The Shelters (Fill the Homes), which helped students and youth contribute to the efforts of welfare rights organizations and unions of the homeless; helped to mobilize a mostly Cambodian and Lai neighborhood in

Please e-mail this information to camiloboston@yahoo.com, or mail the form in to Friends of Camilo
C/o Boston Global Action Network
PO Box 2362,
Boston MA 02107

For more information, visit <http://www.friendsofcamilo.org>
camiloboston@yahoo.com or call (617) 755-0795



Pledge for Camilo Viveiros

Camilo Viveiros needs our help as his trial approaches. As supporters, we are working to build a broad base of people who know about Camilo's case and who will stand with him. You can pledge here to take on particular tasks that will make a concrete contribution to the campaign to support Camilo.

Yes, I will work to support Camilo Viveiros!

If I belong to any organizations, I will

- ☐ Convince my organization to sign on to a support letter.
- ☐ Convince my organization to send a letter of their own on Camilo's behalf
- ☐ Convince my organization to contact other groups in my sector, especially sister groups in Philadelphia, to write letters on Camilo's behalf

As an individual, I will

- ☐ Write a letter on Camilo's behalf
- ☐ Make calls to groups to urge them to support Camilo
- ☐ Attend a work party or other public event
- ☐ Help to plan events
- ☐ Write a letter to the editor or editorial in my local paper

As Camilo's trial gets closer, if asked to, I will

- ☐ Call Philadelphia authorities on Camilo's behalf
- ☐ Attend a vigil or demonstration

Name: _____

Organization: _____

E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Other notes:

Fall River, Massachusetts, to pressure the city to shut down a toxic incinerator; went to Canada to stop the creation of a Hydro Quebec dam on Innu land; co-founded Homes not Jails in Boston. Camilo has been committed to the use of civil disobedience for years. Camilo has always believed that the power of the people lay in passionate activists successfully building the support of ordinary people.

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF CAMILO

- ¥ Please send two signed copies of the letter, one addressed To Whom it May Concern and the other addressed to Honorable Judge Hughes.
- ¥ Please send the letters to: Friends of Camilo, P.O. Box 23169, Providence, RI 02903.
- ¥ Do not send them directly to the Judge.
- ¥ Letters to the Judge should focus on why it would be a great tragedy to imprison someone like Camilo. State why you think Camilo's role in the community should be considered; how the kind of work he does is so useful and necessary to society.
- ¥ It is not helpful to rant against the Police Commissioner, D.A., or the Philadelphia police in general

GUIDELINES FOR DRAFTING A LETTER

We have been given specific suggestions from Camilo's attorney about the types of letters that would be most beneficial as we prepare to go to trial. As tempting as it may seem to rant and make proclamations against former commissioner Timoney, the Mayor, D.A. or police in general we are asking that people limit their letters to testimonials to Camilo's outstanding character. As certain as we all are of Camilo's innocence, because none of us were actual witnesses to the events, from a legal standpoint, the strength and credibility of these letters lies more in expressing our knowledge of who Camilo is rather than the specifics of his case.

If possible please compose your letter on official stationery from the organization you are associated with. Please send us two, signed copies of the letter. One addressed to Whom it May Concern and the other addressed to the Honorable Judge Hughes. Do not send letters directly to the Judge. Be sure to use the legal spelling of Camilo's name: Camilo Viveiros Jr.

DESCRIBE WHO YOU ARE:

- Æ It is helpful to use descriptors for yourself to illustrate the wide and

diverse range of support that exists for Camilo i.e. I am a 24 year old student, I am a registered voter or I am a small business owner. If applicable state your title, position or affiliation with an organization, church, association, club etc. This can be anything from Executive Director to member.

Æ If your position brings you into contact with the public, state the constituencies you work with i.e.-number of members of a union, number of members in your church.

Æ If relevant state affiliates, friends or relatives of yours that live in Philadelphia and your commitment to bring Camilo's case to their attention. If you are part of a national organization that has branches in Philadelphia, please alert them to write letters to help build pressure where it is needed most.

Æ If relevant describe your own history of community involvement. When instructive describe specific issues: civil rights, labor, economic justice, faith based social justice, where you have focused your work and your connection to various social, ethnic or academic communities that highlight your status in the community

DESCRIBE HOW YOU KNOW CAMILO:

Æ State the length of time you have known Camilo.

Æ The circumstances under which you first met.

Æ Any kind of working relationship or projects that you have been part of together.

DESCRIBE WHO CAMILO IS:

Æ State why these charges are inconsistent with Camilo's character.

For example

He devotes himself to positively impacting his community and the world, not just in his work but in his person. His interactions with people are inherently attentive, caring, patient and fair; he exudes warmth and generosity, honesty and kindness, which one rarely finds in the world today. Lydia Stein, Community Muralist

The time I have spent with Camilo he has been nothing less than compassionate, thinking peaceful and professional. If Camilo advocated violence, he would not have dedicated his life to finding peaceful ways to help communities help themselves. Kate Maurer, former organizers, Texas Tenant Union

Æ If possible give examples of your work with and familiarity with Camilo's accomplishments. Describe particular interactions you have had with

Camilo that highlight his character. Examples:

This past June I had the opportunity to work on a one-on-one basis with Camilo in helping with various logistics for our annual conference. Although the work continued well into the night as well as requiring his presence early in the morning, he displayed patience and calm throughout. Gina Miscrendino, Delaware Housing Coalition

I am an environmental educator for public school children and have known Camilo for the past seven years, for three of those years Camilo and I worked together serving food to the homeless people of Boston. Jan Berger, teacher

Æ Explain why it would be a great tragedy to imprison someone like Camilo.

Proceeding with the prosecution of these charges would constitute a great disservice not only to Camilo and everybody that is lucky enough to know him, but to a society that is already suffering from a serious shortage of people as passionate and committed as Camilo. Tom O'Brien, former co-worker, MAHT

Letters should be sent to: Friends of Camilo, P.O. Box 23169,
Providence, RI 02903

